

FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

**NOMINATION FORM**

**THE ANTONOV DIPLOMA**

(for technical innovation(s))

From NAeC : **Academy of Model Aeronautics** \_\_\_\_\_

Date : November 1, 2002

Address : 5161 E Memorial Dr \_\_\_\_\_

Country :

Muncie, IN 47302 \_\_\_\_\_

USA

\_\_\_\_\_

(only one person from a country  
may be nominated annually by that  
candidate's National Aero Club)

Name of Nominee : **Frank Zaic**

Address : 22 Ave 88 Zona 15

Vista Hermosa 1

Guatemala City - Guatemala

**DESCRIPTION OF TECHNICAL INNOVATION(S) - Please Print**

See attached \_\_\_\_\_

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NAeC Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(President or Secretary General of nominating FAI National Aero Club)

*(must be submitted to the FAI Office by November 15)*

## **Frank Zaic – Model Aeronautics Pioneer**

Frank Zaic's first yearbook published in 1934 closed the twin pusher era and introduced the scientific and systematic approach to designing and flying model aircraft. His forte was in the classical realm of free flight models and his beginnings were in the golden era of world aviation. The first issue from *Model Aeronautic Publications* gathered the modeling milieu in the United States into a cohesive and succinct example of the expanse and enthusiastic interest for the hobby/sport. This one, initial volume was the touchstone and formed the nucleus for the NAA to base the development of its "Junior NAA" which eventually emerged, in 1936, as the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Mr. Zaic was one of the founders of the Academy of Model Aeronautics and designed the original AMA logo with its characteristic wings and golden torch.

Subsequent volumes of Zaic's yearbooks acted as the elements of model aviation development throughout the world. Frank Zaic corresponded with leading model aircrafters in the US and abroad connecting them into an eager army of preliminary aeronautical engineers. His yearbooks covered all free flight types – outdoor, indoor, gliders and powered models. There are over a dozen books spanning more than three decades each crafted by Zaic with unique and utterly useful information. They read as an accessible doctoral treatise on aero engineering and have influenced the very foundation of the aero modeling world. The characteristic drawings and exquisite ink work are as artistic as they are explanatory and were intricately laid down by Frank's own well trained draftsman's hand – long before the age of sterile drafting software. The books are works of art and original copies are carefully accounted for and revered possessions.

Zaic lived in New York City and in his youth tested many outdoor free flight planes in Central Park. His own model designs had a graceful signature line and form but he was so busy explaining technical information and theory that his own competition success was wanting for the requisite practice time. His enthusiasm for rubber-powered models raised the world Wakefield competition (now antiseptically known as F1B) to its height of perfection. The event is known today as one of the premier classes because of its popularity, lineage and competitive rigor. Frank also initiated and maintained a model supply source (Jasco) in the 1940's and 50's distributing specialized parts and materials needed for the advancing model aircraft technology that he was nurturing.

Frank Zaic was the 1956 recipient of the Paul Tissandier Diploma for his outstanding accomplishment and service.

Frank Zaic is an outstanding candidate for international honors. He advanced the technical development of model aircraft by collecting and disseminating designs and ideas among thousands of enthusiasts over several decades of rapid progress. By his dedication and unselfishness he can be credited for organizing the first most successful group of advanced modelers inspiring and cultivating them to carry the activity to the great scientific success it is today.